

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 5237

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (JAVITS, JACOB) EG

SUBJECT: PRESS TREATMENT OF JAVITS' VISIT TO EGYPT

1. VISIT OF SENATOR JAVITS TO EGYPT APRIL 16-19
RECEIVED EXTENSIVE AND STRAIGHT-FORWARD COVERAGE IN
EGYPTIAN PRESS. ALL DAILIES REMARKED ON APRIL 17 ON
FRONT PAGES THAT SENATOR JAVITS HAD ARRIVED IN
CAIRO AND THAT HE WAS SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT
SADAT, PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY SPEAKER MAR'I AND FONMIN
FAHMY AMONG OTHERS. APRIL 17 FRONT PAGE ITEMS
NOTED THAT SENATOR WAS ONE OF STRONGEST SUPPORTERS OF
ISRAEL IN US CONGRESS BUT THIS FACT TREATED WITHOUT
EMOTION. DURING SUBSEQUENT PRESS COVERAGE,
DAILIES CONTINUED TO NOTE JAVITS' SUPPORT FOR
ISRAEL, BUT NO EMOTIONAL OR DEROGATORY COMMENTS WERE
DERIVED FROM FACT OF SENATOR'S SUPPORT FOR ISRAELI
REGIME.

2. BOTH GUMHURIYYA AND AKHBAR APRIL 18 CARRIED FRONT
PAGE PHOTO OF JAVITS MEETING WITH PRES SADAT, WHILE
ONLY AHAM CHOSE TO RUN PICTURE OF CONGO PM MEETING
WITH PRES. ONLY GUMHURIYYA CARRIED ARTICLE CONCERNING
MEETING. QUOTING JAVITS' COMMENTS AFTER LEAVING
PRES SADAT, GUMHURIYYA ARTICLE (SECOND LEAD ON FRONT
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PAGE) HEADLINED "SADAT WORKING EARNESTLY FOR THE

FACT OF PEACE". GUMHURIYYA ARTICLE PROCEEDS TO QUOTE AT LENGTH RATHER GENERAL COMMENTS MADE BY SENATOR JAVITS CONCERNING HIS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT AND HIS FAVORABLE IMPRESSION OF SADAT.

3. ALL DAILIES APRIL 19 CARRY REPORT OF SENATOR JAVITS' PRESS CONFERENCE PREVIOUS AFTERNOON, STRESSING SENATOR'S COMMENT THAT SADAT BELIEVES IN PEACE AND THAT, ALTHOUGH SENATOR FRIENDS OF ISRAEL, HE ALSO FRIEND OF EGYPT. ARTICLES DEALING WITH PRESS CONFERENCE GENERALLY NEUTRAL IN TONE, THOUGH SENSITIVE ISSUES SUCH AS ARMS SALES AND RELATIONS WITH PALESTINIANS ALSO INCLUDED. ARTICLES GENERALLY BURIED IN INSIDE PAGES.

4. COMMENT: EGYPTIAN PRESS HAS CHOSEN TO PLAY VISIT OF SENATOR JAVITS IN STRAIGHT-FORWARD UNEMOTIONAL WAY, ALTHOUGH VERY FACT OF SADAT MEETING WITH LEADING SUPPORTER OF ISRAEL COULD LEAVE GOE OPEN TO ATTACKS FROM SYRIA, LIBYA AND ELSEWHERE. RATHER, EGYPTIAN DAILIES SEEM TO IMPLY THAT SADAT NOW OF SUFFICIENT STATURE IN SEARCH FOR ME PEACE THAT ALL ACTORS IN DRAMA, INCLUDING LEADING AMERICAN SUPPORTERS OF ISRAEL, MUST BEAT A PATH TO CAIRO. TREATMENT OF JAVITS IN LOCAL DAILIES DURING HIS APRIL 16-19 VISIT IS IN MARKED CONTRAST TO PREVIOUS TREATMENT OF SENATOR, WHO IS USUALLY DEPICTED AS MORE ZIONIST THAN THE ISRAELIS, A DIEHARD ANTI-ARAB POLITICIAN AND WORSE. ALTHOUGH DAILIES NOTED THAT JAVITS CONSIDERED MAJOR BACKER OF ISRAEL, HEADLINES DEALING WITH APRIL 18 PRESS CONFERENCE NOTED THAT SENATOR "WAS FRIEND OF EGYPT" AND DEEPLY CONCERNED WITH STABILITY OF AREA AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF EGYPT.
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